

herein below, are implemented in either JAVA or PHP (<http://www.php.net>). PHP is a server-side HTML embedded scripting language that provides web developers with a full suite of tools for building dynamic websites. In addition, some custom Adobe® Flash® ActionScript codes are provided to interact with flash.homeway.com discussed in detail in the '569 Patent. ActionScript is a dialect of ECMAScript (i.e., it is a superset of the syntax and semantics of the language more widely known JavaScript), and is used primarily for the development of websites and software targeting the Adobe Flash Player platform. ECMAScript is the scripting language standardized by Ecma International in the ECMA-262 specification and ISO/IEC 16262 specifications. The language is widely used for client-side scripting on the web.

[0396] It will be recognized that website design and implementation is believed to be well known to those of skill in the art. Consequently, alternate web development tools/languages may be utilized to develop similar applications. Consequently, the disclosure is not considered limited to the development tools and/or languages chosen for purposes of disclosure. Rather, the disclosure is intended to include any suitable languages, scripts, etc.

[0397] The HomeWAV, LLC website also embodies and supports storage provided to contain application code and the databases necessary to implement the remote web-based visitation system of the disclosure.

[0398] A second website associated with the remote web-based visitation system of the disclosure is Flash.HomeWAV.com website. Flash.HomeWAV.com website records and stores all audio/video (A/V) visits. As discussed in detail in the '569 Patent, certain A/V visits by clergy or legal representatives may be exempt from recording. Typically, all other A/V visits are recorded by one or more A/V servers. Storage devices retain A/V transcripts of all visits not exempt from the recording requirement.

[0399] Finally, one or more HomeWAV Administrators at workstations that include a computer and a modem that are connected to the Internet through an Internet connection provide certain gate keeping and administrative functions by interacting with HomeWAV website. Such gate keeping and administrative functions are also discussed in detail in the '569 Patent.

[0400] Since other modifications and changes varied to fit particular operating requirements and environments will be apparent to those skilled in the art, the disclosure is not considered limited to the example chosen for purposes of disclosure, and covers all changes and modifications which do not constitute departures from the true spirit and scope of this disclosure.

[0401] When describing elements or features and/or embodiments thereof, the articles “a”, “an”, “the”, and “said” are intended to mean that there are one or more of the elements or features. The terms “comprising”, “including”, and “having” are intended to be inclusive and mean that there may be additional elements or features beyond those specifically described.

[0402] Those skilled in the art will recognize that various changes can be made to the exemplary embodiments and implementations described above without departing from the scope of the disclosure. Accordingly, all matter contained in the above description or shown in the accompanying drawings should be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

[0403] It is further to be understood that the processes or steps described herein are not to be construed as necessarily requiring their performance in the particular order discussed or illustrated. It is also to be understood that additional or alternative processes or steps may be employed.

1-20. (canceled)

21. A computer-implemented video visitation system for a population of incarcerated inmates in a correctional facility, the system comprising:

at least one database storing authorized inmate user data and information for the population of incarcerated inmates, and financial account data and information for video visitation service charges linked to respective authorized inmate users in the population of incarcerated inmates; and

at least one computer device in communication with the at least one database, wherein the at least one computer device is configured to:

accepted login information to uniquely identify an authorized inmate user inside the correctional facility;

determine, according to the authorized inmate user data and information and the accepted log-in information, whether a privilege status to participate in a video visitation session in the correctional facility for a uniquely identified authorized inmate user has been suspended by the correctional facility; and

when the privilege status has not been suspended:

present an inmate interface to the uniquely identified authorized inmate, the inmate interface including an option to initiate a video visitation session with a uniquely identified pre-authorized visitor at a remote location outside the correctional facility;

when the option to initiate the video visitation session is selected by the uniquely identified authorized inmate user inside the correctional facility, establish an electronic video visitation session between the uniquely identified authorized inmate user in the correctional facility and the uniquely identified pre-authorized visitor at the remote location without requiring endpoint control to schedule or initiate the visitation session by administrative personnel of the correctional facility; and

account for a financial charge for the established video visitation session and update the financial account information accordingly.

22. The computer system of claim 21, the at least one computer device being further configured to:

transmit a text message to the uniquely identified pre-authorized visitor at the remote location outside the correctional facility when the option to initiate the video visitation session is selected by the uniquely identified authorized inmate user inside the correctional facility, the text message including an invitation to a video visitation session with the uniquely identified authorized inmate user.

23. The computer system of claim 21, the at least one computer device being further configured to:

establish the video visitation session between the uniquely identified authorized inmate user inside the correctional facility and the uniquely identified pre-authorized visitor at the remote location outside the correctional facility only when financial funds are